

6 a coating disposed over at least a portion of a surface of the conical portion  
7 of the orifice,

8 wherein the coating is a polymer disposed along an interior surface of the  
9 orifice and one of i) an Alumina, ii)  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ , iii) silica, iv) a combination of 12% silica and  
10 88% Alumina, and v) a Diamond like coating (DLC) disposed along an exterior portion of  
11 the orifice.

---

1 10. (Twice Amended) A bonding tool for bonding a wire to a substrate,  
2 the bonding tool having a body and a working tip coupled to one end of the body, and  
3 comprising:

03 4 an orifice extending along a longitudinal axis of the body and the working tip  
5 and having a conical portion adjacent the working tip; and

6 a polymer coating disposed over at least a portion of a surface of the conical  
7 portion of the orifice,

8 wherein the coating has a substantially uniform thickness of up to about 2.0  
9 microns.

---

1 28. (Amended) A bonding tool for bonding a wire to a substrate, the  
2 bonding tool having a body and a working tip coupled to one end of the body, and  
3 comprising:

04 4 an orifice extending along a longitudinal axis of the body and the working  
5 tip and having a conical portion adjacent the working tip; and

6 a polymer non-conductive coating disposed over at least a portion of a  
7 surface of the conical portion of the orifice.

---